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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1467
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 9623
RUEHAA/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 1212
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 0935
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1667
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 6241
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 7157
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 9373
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 1901
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 2909
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 0209
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 8251
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 019125

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/27/2016

TAGS: KDEM PGOV PINR PK FREL
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN ELECTIONS (5): MUSHARRAF'S COALITION
OPTIONS...

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REF: A. ISLAMABAD 19121
 1B. ISLAMABAD 19122
 1C. ISLAMABAD 19123
 1D. ISLAMABAD 19124

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Peter W. Bodde, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Summary and introduction: Pervez Musharraf has three options for ensuring a solid political foundation for his moderate and progressive future. He can either seek a coalition with the PML-N, the PPP, or the PML-Q. Each option has its own set of challenges and opportunities. The PML-N is a strong and well-established party with a large base in the Punjab. The PPP is a smaller party with a more leftist orientation. The PML-Q is a smaller party with a more conservative orientation. The PML-N poses a serious threat to Chaudharies and the ruling PML, as it has a strong base in the Punjab and represents similar conservative values. The PML-Q is a smaller party with a more conservative orientation. The PML-Q poses a serious threat to Chaudharies and the ruling PML, as it has a strong base in the Punjab and represents similar conservative values.

12. (C) This cable, the fifth in a series mapping the political terrain as Pakistan approaches nationwide elections in 2007, assesses President Musharraf's options for ensuring a solid political foundation for his moderate and progressive future.

13. (C/NF) Setting aside his personal ambitions, as President Musharraf looks to the 2007 elections and beyond, his fundamental objective is to maintain power and influence.

14. (C/NF) Musharraf can, of course, stay the course. Under this scenario, Musharraf would stand by the PML, its current leadership and the Chaudharies. Alternatively, Musharraf could conceivably stick with the PML-Q.

15. (C/NF) Musharraf could also seek an accommodation with the mainstream secular parties headed by Benazir Bhutto (Pakistan People's Party - ISLAMABAD 00019125 002 OF 003

League-Nawaz - PML-N). There is much to be said for this option -- especially as it relates to the PPP and Pakistan's smaller regional parties.

16. (C/NF) The PML-N poses a serious threat to Chaudharies and the ruling PML, as it has a strong base in the Punjab and represents similar conservative values.

17. (C/NF) Of the PPP and PML-N, the PPP is either Musharraf's greater electoral threat or, conversely, his most lucrative coalition partner,

18. (C/NF) Musharraf will find it difficult to reach an agreement with the exiled leaders if they continue to make such a deal contingent on their return to Pakistan.

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